

**University of Central Florida
Research Council Meeting Minutes
For September 23, 2024
[via Zoom virtual format]**

Chair: Dr. Linda Walters; Vice-Chair: Dr. Steve Duranceau

- 1) Call to Order [4:00 P.M.]
- 2) Attendees [Per Zoom Participation] The following persons were in attendance.

<u>Name [Voting Member]</u>	<u>College</u>
Brisset, Julie	FSI
Coffee, Lane	COM
Delfyett, Peter	CREOL
Donaldson Hanna, Kerri	COS
Duranceau, Steven	CECS
Ge, Yue (Gurt)	CCIE
Gesquiere, Andre	NTC
Guldi, Melanie	CBA
Huang, Helen*Alternate	CECS
Jurca, Titel	COS
Kuebler, Stephen	COS
Lopez Castillo, Humberto	CHPS
Luna, David	CBA
Miller, Ann	COS
Norris, Sarah	LIB
Okumus, Fevzi	RCHM
Varadraj, Gurupur	CCIE
Walker, Larry	CCIE
Walters, Linda	COS
Weremchuk, George	CAH
Yalim, Asli	CHPS
<u>Name [Ex officio]</u>	<u>College</u>
Bochenek, Grace	CGS
Kapucu, Naim	CCIE
Kent-Walsh, Jennifer	CHPS
<u>Name [Guests]</u>	
Harrington, Joe	
Roney, Josh	
Khondaker, Saiful	
Weishampel, John	

- 3) Minutes from the September 9, 2024 meeting were approved.
- 4) Announcements. None provided for this meeting.
- 5) New Business.
 - a. EHS. Discussion on new draft policy 3-131 where the Draft policy is focused on Hazardous Chemical Inventory Management. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to invite EHS and possibly Rhonda Bishop to an upcoming meeting to advise Council the reasons behind the need for this new policy [Item submitted for discussion by Steven Kuebler to Chair Walters prior to meeting].

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- b. Research Space Allocation. Discussion ensued regarding issues identified in ongoing space allocation activities. The Council will be receiving current status from the space allocation committee within 30 days from the Provost’s office.
- c. Update was provided on University Excellence in Research Award judging rubric for Research Council judges.
- d. NSF Funded Project Field Research Safe Form. It was recommended that EHS needs to make some modifications to encompass these new guidelines.
- e. SEED Grants. Significant discussion focused on the three categories of SEED funding ensued. A summary of the process from last time (2021-2022) was reviewed as a group. :
 - i. ER1 = Exploratory Research,
 - ii. ER2 = Shared Research Facility Usage,
 - iii. IR = Interdisciplinary Research

	Total \$ in pot	# awards planned	goal	# PIs	# submitted	# funded
ER1	\$580K	15-20	New ideas	1-2	50	23
ER2	\$20K	10-12	Shared facility use, gather preliminary data	1-2	1	1
IR	\$400K	4-8	Establish new groups on campus that can then apply for large grants, NOI required	No limit	29	9

Feedback from COM/BSBS Faculty and others on SEED funding opportunities:

- i. Increasing the award amount. Several faculty suggested either having a larger budget, or decreasing the number of awards so that each SEED grant has a larger budget in order to accomplish proposed aims.
- ii. Clarity about eligibility. It would be helpful to provide an example of continued eligibility for prior awardees. For example, if you were awarded a ER1 grant which was applied for in Fall 2019 and started on Jan 1, 2020, then you are eligible to apply again in Fall 2024 as the new ER1 grant would start Jan 1, 2025, thereby, fulfilling the 5-year window between grants.”
- iii. Evidence of program success. It will be helpful to know the success rate of previous awarded grants that have resulted in grant submissions, funding and wider exposure of UCF faculty. Some faculty expressed concerns about the need to clarify the goals of these funds.
- iv. For ER1 applications, it should be limited to only internal funding from UCF’s Office of Research. College-level funding (e.g., summer research grant) typically serves a different purpose for some of the units on campus (in this instance it is mainly for

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- research that may lead to premier publications rather than external funding, which may put our applicants at a disadvantage).
- v. Other discussion ensued regarding this issue; one idea was to restructure ER2 to allow for small equipment purchases.
 - vi. The Office of Research representatives continue to review SEED funding mechanisms and further discussions are anticipated.
- 6) Other Business. None noted.
- 7) Adjournment at 5:09 p.m.